

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 24

By Gilmore

### A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the 13<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Troops Murfreesboro/Nashville.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly recognize those citizens of Tennessee who strive to honor the events of the past through historical reenactment; and

WHEREAS, during the Civil War, both free African Americans and slaves courageously fought to secure the rights of freedom and liberty for themselves, their families, and their progeny; and

WHEREAS, the 13th United States Colored Troops (USCT) Murfreesboro/Nashville was formed in 2002-2003 to pay homage to those brave "Men of Blue" who fought in the Civil War in Middle Tennessee from 1863-1865; and

WHEREAS, founded by Dr. George Smith, Bill Radcliffe, and Norman Hill, the group endeavors to "educate from the past, and motivate for the future"; and

WHEREAS, in the South, there were no monuments memorializing the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans during the Civil War until February 18, 2006, when the Veterans National Cemetery in Madison, Tennessee, dedicated its first freestanding monument of a USCT soldier; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Nashville firefighter William "Bill" Radcliffe, a Civil War re-enactor for the past twenty years, served as the model for the statue at the Veterans National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Radcliffe, who is also a member of the 54th Massachusetts regiment honored in the movie *Glory*, was honored in 2005 by the Metropolitan Council for his contributions as a Civil War re-enactor; and

WHEREAS, in their efforts to honor the memories and selfless acts of the "Men in Blue," the members of USCT have participated in many activities throughout the State, including living history programs in public schools, libraries, and parades; and

WHEREAS, the men of USCT also participated in the Confederate Memorial dedication service at the Shiloh National Battlefield in 2005 and in the Colored Troops Memorial in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the regiment has been listed in Civil War, local, and national publications, and it has a proud heritage of honoring both African American history and American history; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2006, the people of the Third Congressional District of Florida and the Second Congressional District of Georgia presented the men USCT with the Veterans Braintrust Award; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly recognize the honorable men of the 13th United States Colored Troops Murfreesboro/Nashville and applaud them for their many good works in the name of historical preservation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we commend the reenactors of the 13th United States Colored Troops Murfreesboro/Nashville for their dedication to honoring the memories of those important African Americans who fought so valiantly and courageously in the Civil War and thank them for their meritorious service to the good people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.